



INFORMATION RETRIEVAL/DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, COMPUTER
READABLE STORAGE MEDIUM, AND PROGRAM FOR INFORMATION
RETRIEVAL/DISTRIBUTION

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10 An information retrieval/distribution system
configured on computers and for requesting the retrieval
of information which is scattered on a network, comprises
an information retrieval request unit for requesting the
retrieval of information and a plurality of database
15 management units for managing databases. Each of the
plurality of database management units (e.g., each
manager) has management information about the databases
which are managed by each manager, and has management
information about the databases which are managed by
20 other database management units which can be connected to
each manager through said network. When a retrieval
criterion is input to the information retrieval request
unit, one of the plurality of database management units
(e.g., one manager), based on the management information
25 in one manager, retrieves the information in the
databases managed by one manager, and requests any other
database management unit (e.g., other manager) managing
the database in which the information related to said
retrieval criterion is stored to retrieve the information
30 in the databases managed by other manager, thereby
distributing the information corresponding to the
retrieval criterion to the information retrieval request
source.